<u>AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS</u>

1.   (Currently Amended) A method, using a computer with data storage device thereon, to construct a computer database for a population of asset allocation alternatives for the purpose of generating comparative statistics of investment performance for a whole-population of available asset allocation alternatives over a plurality of analysis periods, comprising the steps of:

providing investment performance data for a plurality of ~~investment alternatives~~ securities, made from publicly offered securities, in a computer database on the computer;

grouping the ~~investment alternatives~~ securities, using the computer, on the basis of this performance data into one of a plurality of market sectors inclusive of all markets available to an investor; the ~~investment alternatives~~ securities within each market sector having uniquely similar levels and patterns of investment risk;

determining, using the computer a series of periodic investment returns of each of the ~~investment alternatives~~ securities;

acquiring and storing within the computer a series of the average of periodic investment returns for the population of ~~investment alternatives~~ securities within each of the plurality of market sectors for a plurality of analysis periods;

determining, using the computer, a minimum allocation percentage increment for each of the market sectors;

determining, using the computer, allocation alternatives from the application of multiples of this minimum allocation percentage increment for each of the market sectors;

creating, using the computer, a population of the all possible allocation alternatives that can be determined from the application of all multiples of this minimum allocation percentage increment for all determined market sectors; wherein the population is comprised of at least 500 allocation strategies when calculated as the product of the number of market sector populations times the number of minimum allocation percentage increments times the number of analysis periods;

calculating, using the computer, a series of weighted-average periodic returns for each of the allocation alternatives within that population;

determining a plurality of allocation alternatives which reside along an efficiency-line population of allocation alternatives; and

calculating, using the computer, analysis-period measures of investment performance for the population of all possible allocation alternatives and the series of weighted-average periodic returns[[.]];

generating comparative statistics of investment performance for whole populations of asset allocation alternatives across multiple time periods to determine which asset allocation alternative has desirable characteristics of investment return and risk; and

selecting the asset allocation alternative with a desirable characteristic of investment return and risk for investment by an investor.

2.   (canceled)

3.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the number of market sectors is five.

4.   (Currently Amended)   The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of ~~investment alternatives~~ <u>securities</u> includes the type known as book-valued collective investment funds.

5.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the series of analysis-period investment performance measures are a series of five-year analysis periods initiated each quarter over the past forty years.

6.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the market sector allocations are determined in minimum allocation percentage increments of 5 percent.

7.   (Original)   The method of claim 1, wherein a total of 10,626 allocation alternatives are provided as the population of all possible allocation alternatives for each analysis period.

8.   (Currently amended) A method, using a computer with a computer database on data storage device thereon, of generating comparative statistics of investment performance for whole populations of asset allocation strategies, comprising the steps of:

acquiring performance data for a population of similar investments inclusive of all securities markets available to an investor; storing the performance data in the data storage device; said performance data being from publicly offered securities;

calculating, using the computer, an average of these periodic returns and a measurement of a variance of the periodic returns around the average returns for each investment for a plurality of analysis periods;

grouping, using the computer, the investments into categories of investments having uniquely similar levels and patterns of investment risk, known as asset classes;

calculating, using the computer, an average of the periodic returns for the population of securities within each asset class;

constructing, using the computer, a set of all possible asset allocation strategies, inclusive of an entire range of allocation strategies that can be derived from a population of securities, from the combination of all multiples of the minimum allocation percentage increment from each asset class; wherein the population is comprised of at least 500 allocation strategies when calculated as the product of the number of market sector populations times the number of minimum allocation percentage increments times the number of analysis periods;

calculating, using the computer, a series of periodic returns generated by each allocation alternative by multiplying the asset-class average periodic return by the percent of portfolio assets allocated to that asset class for each allocation alternative;

calculating, using the computer, the performance statistics for each allocation alternative for each analysis-period;

determining a plurality of allocation alternatives which reside along an efficiency-line population of allocation alternatives;

calculating, using the computer, population-comparison statistics for each analysis-period;

generating, using the computer, categories of allocation alternatives within each analysis-period population based on similar population-comparison statistics; and

normalizing, using the computer, population-comparison statistics by recalculating the statistics to a standard scale in terms of deviation of the measure from a population average and comparing the statistics across a time-series of analysis-period populations[[.]];

generating comparative statistics of investment performance for whole populations of asset allocation strategies across multiple time periods to determine which asset allocation strategy has desirable characteristics of investment return and risk; and

selecting the asset allocation strategy with a desirable characteristic of investment return and risk for investment by an investor.

9.   (canceled)

10.   (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the performance data is mutual funds, variable annuities and other book-valued collective investment funds.

11.   (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the performance data acquired is a set of calculated investment returns for a contiguous set of time periods for each investment.

12.   (canceled)

13.   (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the calculation of the average of the periodic returns for each asset class is by arithmetic average.

14.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 8, wherein the calculation of the average of the periodic returns for each asset class by average weighted asset size.

15.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 8, wherein the calculation of the average of the periodic returns for each asset class by average weighted market value.

16.	(Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the population-comparison statistics include average return and periodic returns variance.

17.	(Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the population-comparison statistics include differential return and the average and variance of average returns and returns variance for the population of categories of that population.